

POSITIONING OF SEAMS

Introduction

This bulletin addresses the proper positioning of sheet seams during the fabrication of Corian® Solid Surface.

Overview

Proper selection of seam placement impacts material yield and the durability of the installation. It is important to consider seam placement before quoting a job, as the design may impact the number of sheets required.

A. Examination of plans

When examining plans of any installation of Corian® Solid Surface the objectives are:

1. To place seam positions in a manner that minimises the use of Corian® sheet and accessory material.
2. To place seams in positions that maximise product performance.

Examine plans thoroughly and consider alternative options of designing the installation to best fit the plan, following the objectives listed above. Failure to properly plan seam placement may result in poorly designed installations or poor cost estimates.

Adhering to technical design standards is as important as minimising material and labour quantities.

B. Selection of seam positions

All seams are best butt-seamed. Seams should be placed either perpendicular or parallel to the length of the sheet except when fabricating colours with veined or directional patterns for aesthetic improvement.

Seam reinforcement guidelines

Due to improvements in adhesive formulations, guidelines on seam reinforcement have changed.

- Seam reinforcement is required when using DuPont™ Joint Adhesive for all horizontal applications.
- Seam reinforcement is suggested but not required when using Corian® Joint Adhesive for horizontal applications in general dry residential and commercial applications.

Specialty applications may have different guidelines. For example, food serveries would require seam reinforcement for all adhesives where heavy equipment may be placed on the seam or near hot/wet applications such as heat lamps or hot food wells.

To select the best positioning of seams, follow the step-by-step process listed below.

Steps to completion:

1. Consider the positions of any cut-outs, particularly for hobs or other heat-generating appliances. If the installation is “L” or “U” shaped, position the site seam for the worktop piece containing the appliance to be parallel with the front edge of the heat generating appliance if possible. This can be seen in Figure B-1. If parallel positioning is not possible, place the seam in the most convenient position.
2. Seams should not be positioned over a dishwasher or other heat generating appliance. If a seam is unavoidable over a dishwasher or heat generating appliance, the reinforcement edges should be bevelled 45° and the ends of the seam reinforcing strip must be supported by the support structure.
3. Wherever possible allow seams to be offset a minimum of three times the inside corner radius. For example, if the inside corner radius is 12 mm, offset the seam at least 36 mm. If this is not possible, specify a “Corner Insert” inside corner. See *Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Edge Details and Build-ups (K-25293)*.
4. Balance fabricating as many of the seams as possible in the workshop versus the size and weight of the part to be delivered and installed. Make sure there is a path to the install location along which the part can be transported. Use information from the site inspection to determine the ideal balance of these two conflicting factors.
5. Consider the diagrams illustrated in Figure B-1 as good examples of optimising the planning of seam positions.

An inconspicuous seam is achievable between two sheets by using appropriate techniques with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive or Corian® Joint Adhesive. For all horizontal applications seams carried out with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive must be reinforced. The space required by the reinforcement strip may influence the seam location.

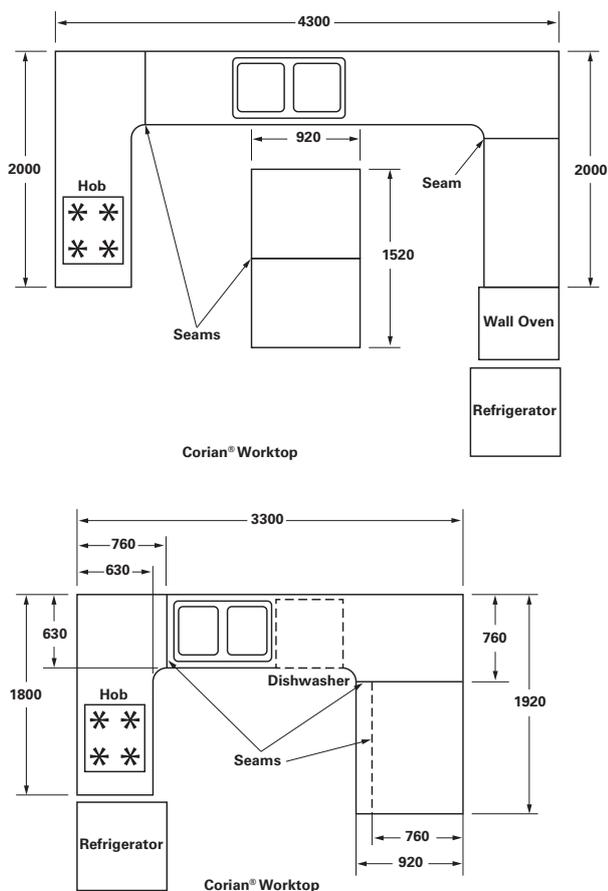


Figure B-1

HELPFUL HINTS

Where possible, minimise on-site seaming. Place seams away from appliances and ensure proper clamping is possible.

C. Types of seams

There are two recommended types of horizontal seams for Corian® Solid Surface:

1. “Hard” standard seams made with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive or Corian® Joint Adhesive

All standard seams made with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive must be reinforced directly under the seamed area to provide maximum strength. The reinforcing strip must be continuous, flush with both ends of the seam, fully adhered with joint adhesive and supported on both ends. More details are available in *Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Seaming* (K-25292).

2. “Soft” silicone seams

Silicone seams are recommended when there is a need to accommodate expansion and contraction or to minimise stress. For example, when there are two separate horizontal surfaces connected by a narrow strip of material it is recommended that the strip be a separate piece attached with silicone, particularly if the strip is behind a heat generating appliance. Soft seams require support from the support structure under the seam.

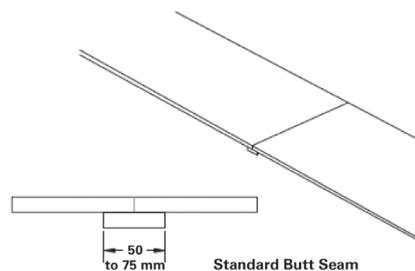


Figure C-1

D. Referenced documents

Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Edge Details and Build-ups (K-25293).

Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Seaming (K-25292).

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